

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus provides for, as a part of call setup and routing whenever a calling party calls a called party, which includes determining a local time for the called party prior to completing call setup. If the local time is within a specified time range, a message is played to the calling party to advise the calling party of the local time for the called party. In one embodiment of the invention, the calling party is given the option of leaving a message or of continuing with the call in the case of an emergency. The message delivered to the calling party may be one that is generated by an interactive voice response unit or by a short message service server. In either case, based upon the calling party's response to the message, the inventive method and apparatus result in the cellular network either taking a message for the called party or routing the call to the called party as normal. As an additional aspect of the present invention, the method and apparatus also provide for merely enabling an individual to determine a local time for an entered area code or country code or mobile station. Moreover, if the individual enters a local time, the inventive method and apparatus provide for calculating a corresponding local time for a specified country code or area code or mobile station.